

CROP-WEATHER REPORT

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Released: 2:00 p.m., MST, September 15, 2003
For Week Ending: September 14, 2003

ISSUED: WEEKLY: Apr-Oct
MONTHLY: Nov-Mar

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Agricultural Summary

There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending September 14th. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture increased over the past week. The rainfall across Montana was welcomed but did little to relieve the past three months of drought.

Ekalaka received the greatest amount of precipitation for the week at 2.26 inches. There was a state high of 98 in Wolf Point and a state low of 23 in Wisdom. The weather outlook for the week of September 22 through 28 is for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation east and west of the divide. Normal temperatures for this period are lows in the 30's to upper 40's and highs in the mid 60's to mid 70's.

Soil Moisture Condition Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Topsoil Moisture				
Very Short	63	80	20	33
Short	24	19	37	38
Adequate	12	1	42	28
Surplus	1	0	1	1
Subsoil Moisture				
Very Short	66	72	34	39
Short	28	27	40	40
Adequate	6	1	25	21
Surplus	0	0	0	0

Field Crops Report

Harvest of spring grains is almost complete. The extreme dry condition from the 1st of July through the end of August has allowed this year's crop to be harvested significantly sooner than in past years. Producers are struggling to decide when to plant their winter wheat crop. Some have decided to begin planting while others are waiting for moisture before seeding.

Potato harvest is in its early stages and sugar beet harvest should start in the next couple of weeks. Like the spring grains the second cutting of hay is way ahead of the historical trends due to the extremely hot and dry weather of the past few months.

Crop Progress Table

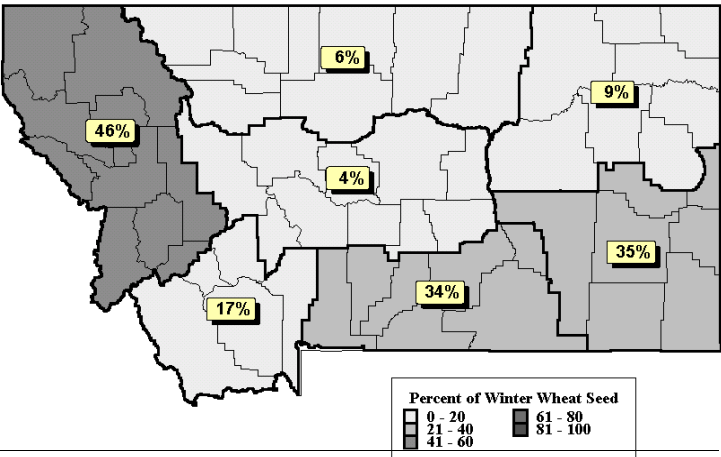
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Barley				
Harvested	98	97	71	89
Corn				
Silage Harvested	64	30	39	40
Dry Beans				
Harvested	82	72	28	49
Hay				
Alfalfa (Second Cutting)	98	96	86	91
Other (Second Cutting)	94	72	79	35
Oats				
Harvested	98	94	85	91
Potatoes				
Harvested	1	0	3	1
Spring Wheat				
Harvested	100	97	75	89
Winter Wheat				
Seeded	9	2	16	10

Crop Condition Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Corn Condition			
Very Poor	1	1	4
Poor	4	3	8
Fair	32	31	25
Good	50	52	45
Excellent	13	13	18
Potato Condition			
Very Poor	0	0	1
Poor	1	0	2
Fair	11	2	10
Good	60	70	50
Excellent	28	28	37
Sugar Beet Condition			
Very Poor	1	1	1
Poor	7	4	11
Fair	22	17	24
Good	38	33	54
Excellent	32	45	10

Percent of Winter Wheat Acreage Seeded

by District for week ending September 14, 2003



Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions increased this week following the first wide spread rains in several weeks. The rain was not long enough to penetrate the subsoil, but it did have an immediate affect on the range conditions.

Livestock Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Movement from Summer Ranges				
Cattle	24	12	26	26
Sheep and Lambs	29	13	23	27
Receiving Supplemental Feed				
Cattle	10	10	6	N/A
Sheep and Lambs	4	5	N/A	N/A

Range & Pasture Feed Condition Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Very Poor	36	42	21	22
Poor	37	35	33	29
Fair	23	19	29	30
Good	4	4	15	16
Excellent	0	0	2	3

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Compiled and Summarized by:
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

In conjunction with:
MSU Extension Agents

USDA County Service Centers
National Weather Service

Weather Information Table For Week Ending 6:00 p.m. MDT, September 13, 2003 1/

STATION	TEMPERATURE PAST WEEK			PRECIPITATION						
				Past Week	April 1, 2003 to Date			October 1, 2002 to Date		
	High	Low	Avg.		Total 2/	Normal 3/	%	Total 2/	Normal 3/	%
	Degrees				In.	Inches		Normal	Inches	
NORTHWEST										
Drummond	86	31	56	0.34	6.60	7.50	88	12.01	12.01	100
Hamilton	86	39	61	0.09	4.51	7.02	64	11.80	12.93	91
Kalispell	86	35	55	1.15	5.64	8.74	65	10.31	16.53	62
Libby	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Missoula	84	39	58	0.56	7.30	7.48	98	12.61	13.21	95
Polson	85	42	59	1.08	7.24	8.98	81	15.36	15.41	100
Superior	84	36	59	0.33	4.19	7.65	55	12.69	15.96	80
Thompson Falls	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
West Glacier	89	36	56	0.94	5.62	12.11	46	21.36	27.68	77
NORTHCENTRAL										
Chester	85	34	59	0.25	5.12	7.72	66	6.58	10.10	65
Choteau	83	32	54	0.25	6.37	7.99	80	8.60	9.76	88
Conrad	84	35	59	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cut Bank	87	37	55	0.21	3.66	9.40	39	4.36	11.84	37
Ft. Benton	74	45	58	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Gold Butte	78	38	56	0.67	8.10	9.74	83	10.59	12.86	82
Harlem	90	37	61	0.01	6.97	8.31	84	9.42	10.77	87
Havre	92	37	61	0.23	7.42	7.77	95	8.75	10.88	80
Shelby	91	37	60	0.33	5.91	8.58	69	7.66	11.11	69
Turner	93	37	62	0.17	5.29	8.27	64	6.97	10.52	66
Valier	87	41	58	0.52	7.23	9.26	78	8.21	11.57	71
NORTHEAST										
Culbertson	97	44	65	0.93	11.64	10.03	116	15.79	12.71	124
Glasgow	96	43	64	0.18	6.86	8.12	84	8.15	10.67	76
Glendive	97	49	68	0.25	7.10	9.61	74	11.10	12.81	87
Jordan	94	39	61	0.46	9.40	8.89	106	10.52	12.20	86
Plentywood	95	40	67	0.25	7.94	9.62	83	10.84	12.38	88
Scobey	89	34	59	0.20	7.60	9.72	78	9.48	11.98	79
Sidney	96	48	66	0.20	8.56	9.99	86	12.77	13.46	95
Wolf Point	98	40	63	0.18	7.58	8.64	88	9.55	11.28	85
CENTRAL										
Cascade	85	30	55	0.59	M	M	M	M	M	M
Flatwillow	82	40	60	0.13	6.96	9.28	75	11.34	12.74	89
Great Falls	89	39	59	0.42	7.47	9.80	76	9.72	14.19	68
Harlowton	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Helena	85	45	61	0.32	6.51	7.60	86	8.66	10.73	81
Lewistown	86	38	56	0.89	8.95	11.82	76	12.97	17.07	76
Melstone	M	M	M	M	6.29	10.07	62	10.19	14.21	72
Roundup	88	45	63	0.20	6.29	9.27	68	9.51	12.53	76
Stanford	74	38	55	1.11	9.32	11.86	79	13.36	16.30	82
White Sulphur Spr	82	36	55	1.05	7.25	8.93	81	9.76	12.52	78
SOUTHWEST										
Anaconda	82	33	52	0.27	8.46	8.34	101	14.79	12.73	116
Belgrade	86	33	57	0.05	8.15	9.25	88	11.97	13.90	86
Bozeman MSU	83	32	57	0.09	9.61	11.83	81	15.79	18.27	86
Butte	80	25	52	0.06	7.02	8.41	83	9.42	12.16	77
Dillon	83	33	55	0.19	5.74	8.17	70	8.23	11.04	75
Ennis	80	32	57	0.07	7.91	9.02	88	10.96	12.91	85
Wisdom	77	23	49	0.18	6.05	7.29	83	11.63	11.34	103
SOUTHCENTRAL										
Billings	86	44	62	0.01	5.13	8.82	58	8.58	14.01	61
Gardiner	81	33	56	0.50	4.80	6.16	78	6.86	9.33	74
Hardin	91	44	64	0.20	6.87	7.35	93	10.51	11.34	93
Livingston	84	37	58	0.08	8.09	10.42	78	12.90	14.89	87
Rapelje	87	37	59	0.20	6.42	9.87	65	10.49	14.55	72
Red Lodge	68	35	53	0.39	5.71	13.38	43	11.03	22.57	49
SOUTHEAST										
Baker	94	45	61	1.92	10.05	9.86	102	13.80	13.60	101
Broadus	92	45	63	1.51	8.02	8.90	90	12.24	13.00	94
Ekalaka	88	43	63	2.26	11.31	11.53	98	16.17	16.39	99
Miles City	93	46	63	0.45	7.11	9.3	76	9.51	12.82	74

1/ Data from National Weather Service. 2/ May be revised weekly. 3/ For period 1971-2000. M-More than 25% of reporting days are missing.

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